

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 10516 102308Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
/064 W

-----078800 111956Z /23

R 101239Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2675
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10516

FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECTY MIKLOS, NEA FROM AMBASSAODR GOHEEN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: US, IN
SUBJECT: POLICY ON CALLS ON KASHMIR CM

REF: (A) STATE 17235; (B) STATE 035944

1. WITH THE FULL CONCURRENCE OF AMBASSADOR HUMMEL, I AM NOW OFFICIALLY REQUESTING REMOVAL OF THE BAN THAT CURRENTLY PROHIBITS MY CALLING ON THE CHIEF MINISTER OF KASHMIR. THOUGH SOME GOOD REASON MUST HAVE GUIDED THE ORIGINAL IMPOSITION OF THAT BAN, SINCE MY ARRIVAL HERE I HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO DISCOVER JUST WHEN IT WAS IMPOSED OR WHAT IT CAN BE SAID TO HAVE ACCOMPLISHED. WE FIND NO EVIDENCE THAT CALLS ON THE CHIEF MINISTER BY EARLIER RESIDENTS OF ROOSEVELT HOUSE ROILED EITHER U.S.-PAK OR INDO-PAK RELATIONS. IT IS STANDRAD PRACTICE FOR THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER AND OTHER WESTERN AMBASSADORS TO CALL ON THE PM WHEN VISITING KAHSMIR. CHIEF MINISTER ABDULLAH IS A FACTOR IN INDIAN NATIONAL AS WELL AS LOCAL POLITICS, AND IT SEEMS TO ME MORE TO OUR INTEREST FOR HIM TO FEEL THAT HE ENJOYS THE INTEREST AND GOODWILL OF THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR THAN TO FEEL THAT HE IS BEING DELIBERATELY IGNORED OR SLIGHTED BY HIM.

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2. THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF THIS REQUEST IS MY PLAN TO VISIT LEH AND LADAKH BEGINNING IN THE SEOND WEEK ON AUGUST. THE ASSISTANCE OF THE CHIEF MINISTER'S OFFICE CAN DO MUCH TO EASE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THAT VISIT; INDEED IT IS VIRTUALLY ESSENTEIAL. IF I SEEK THIS HELP WITHOUT INCLUDING A REQUEST TO CALL ON THE CM, IT IS BOUND TO LOOK STRANGE.

3. TO MITIGATE ANY POSSIBLE PAKISTAN REACTION AMBASSADOR HUMMEL OFFERS THE FOLLOWING SCENARIO. HE IS PREPARED TO CALL ON ABDULLAH'S COUNTERPART IN MUZEFFARABAD IN AZAD KASHMIR LATER THIS MONTH OR EARLY IN AUGUST. THEN SHOULD GOP OFFICIALS RAISE ANY QUESTION ABOUT MY CALL, HE CAN ASK WHY THEY SHOULD COMPLAIN AT MY DOING WHAT MY PREDECESSORS BAVE DONE, ESPECIALLY WHEN HE HAS DONE THE SAME THING WITH AZAD KASHMIR OFFICIALS.
GOHEEN

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